

May 5, 2005

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Layton R. McCurdy, Chairman, and Members, Commission on Higher Education

From: Dr. Vermelle J. Johnson, Chairman, and Members of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Consideration of Mission Statement Revisions:
Florence-Darlington Technical College and Spartanburg Technical College

Summary

The following institutions have requested that the Commission approve changes to their Mission Statements. Changes were submitted in fulfillment of requirements for Performance Finding Indicator 1C, Approval of a Mission Statement. A summary explanation for each institution follows, with a single staff recommendation for all requested changes at the end of the summary explanations. The mission statements, with changes shown, are attached at the end of the document.

1. Florence-Darlington Technical College

Florence-Darlington Technical College requests that the Commission on Higher Education review and approve a revised mission statement for the institution. The revised statement was approved by the Florence-Darlington Technical College Area Commission on April 22, 2005. The mission statement is attached at the end of the document.

Commission staff has reviewed the revised statement and found that the only change from the previous Commission approved mission statement is that the size of the institution has been changed from “8,500 to 10,000” to “12,000 to 15,500.”

2. Spartanburg Technical College

Spartanburg Technical College has requested that the Commission on Higher Education review and approve a revised mission statement for the institution. The revised statement was approved by the Spartanburg Technical College Area Commission on February 21, 2005.

Commission staff has reviewed the revised statement and found that the overall statement is largely similar to the existing mission statement, although there have been numerous changes in wording, some content changes, and the order of the components of the statement has been changed. The resulting statement is consistent with the technical college sector mission as defined in Act 359 of 1996.

Significant changes to the mission statement are:

- The opening sentence of the statement has been changed from “Spartanburg Technical College is a comprehensive, public, suburban, two-year technical college...” to “Spartanburg Technical College is a public, suburban, two-year comprehensive, open admission institution of higher education...”
- The second half of the opening paragraph and elements of the existing “Role and Scope” section have been edited and moved to a new “Scope” section of the mission statement. The “Role and Scope” section has been deleted.
- The seven-part section titled “Spartanburg Technical College Vision 2005” has been replaced by a single sentence section titled “Vision.”
- The order of the sections has been changed.

Recommendation

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the revised mission statements for Spartanburg Technical College and Florence-Darlington Technical College.

FLORENCE-DARLINGTON TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Mission Statement

Florence-Darlington Technical College is a post-secondary, public, two-year institution serving Florence, Darlington and Marion Counties whose primary emphasis is an affordable, comprehensive technical education. The College has an open admissions policy and annually enrolls approximately ~~8,500 to 10,000~~ **12,000 to 15,500** credit students and 12,000 to 18,000 continuing education students. The College offers associate degree, diploma and certificate programs, responding to the educational, economic and cultural needs of a diverse traditional and nontraditional population. In addition the college offers comprehensive distance learning programs to more fully meet the individual educational and training needs of citizens and industry. The educational experience at Florence-Darlington Technical College will have an international perspective, which will enhance the student's marketability in today's global economy.

To fulfill this mission, the College seeks to develop growth opportunities that contribute to the quality of life and economic development by offering comprehensive technical education, college transfer programs, specialized training for business and industry, continuing education, transitional studies, and student development services. These services will prepare individuals for careers, advancement, and growth in health services, human services, business, engineering, public services and other fields. The College will provide graduates with competencies in written and oral communication, information processing, mathematics, problem solving, interpersonal skills and life long learning opportunities. To provide these services at the highest quality, the College solicits funding from public and private sources and commits itself to stewardship of and accountability for all resources.

Approved by the Area Commission April 22, 2005.

Spartanburg Technical College

Current Statement with Changes Denoted

(Note: requesting change in the order in which statements appear. Currently, Mission, College Values, Role and Scope, Spartanburg Technical College Vision 2005; requested order: Vision, Mission, Scope, Values)

Mission

Spartanburg Technical College is a ~~comprehensive, public, suburban, two-year technical college~~ public, suburban, two-year comprehensive, open admission institution of higher education serving the citizens of the upstate counties of Spartanburg, ~~Union, and Cherokee~~ Cherokee and Union in South Carolina. The College advances economic development of the region through programs, services and partnerships that address emerging and continuing employment needs in a rapidly changing global environment. ~~Programs and services provide accessible, affordable, equitable, state-of-the-art, postsecondary education that effectively (1) prepares students to enter, adapt to, or advance in technical or service career fields; (2) provides students with pre baccalaureate programs and courses which transfer to senior colleges and universities; and (3) assists students in achieving their professional and personal goals. Annually, the College serves 4,000 to 6,000 credit-seeking students and 12,000 to 18,000 continuing education students. The College promotes lifelong learning and help students reach their personal and professional goals.~~

College Values

At Spartanburg Technical College, we believe in the worth of individuals and their potential for growth and development.

Values Pertaining to Students

We believe in...

Encouraging students to reach their highest potential and to increase their self-esteem.

Stressing students' responsibility in taking an active role in their own learning, growth and development.

Fostering a caring environment appropriate for the personal and educational development of adult students.

Helping students acquire a work ethic appropriate to their career choice

Promoting a desire for lifelong learning.

Instilling a sense of college pride in students.

Values Pertaining to Faculty and Staff

We believe in...

Accomplishing the college mission through teamwork, effective communication, and personal accountability.

Maintaining a climate of mutual trust and respect.

Treating faculty and staff fairly.

Giving employees personal responsibility for job performance.

Developing professional potential of faculty and staff.

Values Pertaining to Community

We believe in...

- Providing timely programs and services that meet the needs of students and area business and industry.
- Participating as a partner in the community's growth and development.
- Promoting interactive communication with the community to ascertain needs and distribute information about programs and services.
- Developing a continuum of educational opportunities by articulating partnering with secondary and postsecondary institutions.
- Encouraging faculty and staff to serve as leaders and role models in the community.
- Being accountable to the community for effective use of resources.

Role and Scope

~~Spartanburg Technical College, an institution of the South Carolina Technical Education System, provides a wide range of instructional programs that include associate degree, diploma, certificate, occupational advancement, and community interest courses. These programs serve students who are seeking career preparation, entry-level job skills, the first two years of a baccalaureate degree, or personal/professional development. The College is an open access college serving the diverse needs of the adult population in its service area.~~

College-level Programs

~~In response to local business and industry needs, the College offers college credit educational programs in Engineering Technology, Industrial Technology, Computer Technology, Business, Horticulture, Health Sciences, and Public Service leading to associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates. The College offers university transfer opportunities through the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science programs to meet the needs of students whose long-range goals are obtaining baccalaureate degrees.~~

Continuing Education Programs

~~The College advances the economic development of the region through training to meet the unique human resource development needs of both new and existing business and industry. Course offerings provide professional and personal growth opportunities to business, industry, and the community at large.~~

Student Development Services

~~The College offers development services to enhance students' opportunities for career success and their potential for personal and educational growth. Recruitment, counseling, and support services are provided to all students. Special programs and services increase access and equity for minority students, students with disabilities, and other students who are not historically served by higher education.~~

Transitional Studies

~~The College assists underprepared students in developing skills necessary to enter college-level programs. Transitional Studies courses stress mastery of basic academic skills and provide tools to encourage and enable students to become successful.~~

Scope

Spartanburg Technical College implements its mission through programs, services and partnerships that include

- College-level credit programs—STC serves 5,000 to 7,500 credit students annually through programs leading to associate degrees, diplomas and certificates designed for direct job

placement, as well as associate degrees designed for transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

- Continuing Education programs—STC delivers catalog and customized short-term courses to 15,000-20,000 students annually. Continuing Education provides professional and career advancement programs and courses to business, industry, healthcare, and government agencies. The college also offers noncredit courses for personal enrichment.
- Developmental Education programs—STC readies unprepared students to enter a program of study through courses that build academic skills and self-confidence.
- Student Development programs—STC offers a wide variety of student support services to nurture students' academic, personal and professional growth.

Spartanburg Technical College Vision 2005

~~FOCUSES on students, providing a broad range of curriculum and support services to prepare students for a lifetime of learning in a culturally diverse community.~~

~~AFFORDS students a quality education at a reasonable cost.~~

~~ADVANCES technology by providing the most current instructional programs and using the latest equipment.~~

~~IS the community's first choice in higher education and technical training.~~

~~BUILDS community relationships with business and industry, other post-secondary institutions, secondary schools, government and non-profit organizations to enhance education and training opportunities.~~

~~SUPPORTS and encourages employees ensuring that faculty and staff are highly skilled, well compensated, and eager to meet the needs of the community.~~

~~FEATURES attractive and student friendly buildings and boasts award winning grounds, arboretum, and horticulture gardens.~~

Vision

Spartanburg Technical College is the innovative leader in providing relevant, accessible, and affordable educational programs and services to support and improve the economic vitality of our service community.